Information Exploitation Technology BAA 05-45
Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Is government laboratory-industry teaming acceptable? Is a government lab led team acceptable?

A1. All teaming arrangements that comply with Federal Acquisition Regulations are acceptable.

Q2. I'm interested in possibly bidding on Distributed Control of Networked Autonomous Robotic platforms. I cannot find the DARPA technical lead in that area to discuss the subject area. Can you please provide that information, as we are usually encouraged to discuss these technical approach issues in advance where appropriate.

A2. No specific individual has been identified as the technical lead for any of our areas of interest. Visit the IXO web site to learn about our Program Managers' interests.

Q3. We are looking at combinations of various sensors in hopes of proving that the combination of their data, when correlated, would provide detailed information about buried mines and ordnance. Is this a viable application for submission under this BAA?

A3. Yes.

Q4. Do the rules of this BAA allow us to have face-to-face exploration discussions with the technical POC prior to abstract submission?

A4. Discussion of ideas with all IXO Program Managers is encouraged.

Q5. I have been developing a device for remotely assessing the health of electro-mechanical systems. Would this technology be of relevance to the DARPA BAA 05-45?

A5. All technologies that can contribute to the areas outlined in the PIP are relevant to this BAA.

Q6. We have a teaming agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), George C. Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). Can we submit a proposal with our MSFC colleagues/team members?

A6. All teaming arrangements that comply with Federal Acquisition Regulations are acceptable.

Q7. Are cryptology methods of interest to IXO?

A7. No.

Q8. On page 10, Sec B.1.4, it is stated that "No technical contributor can be proposed in more than one response." I understand the motivation for this in the context of proposals. However, since one of the purposes of the Abstract submission process is to identify concepts that should be carried forward, it is expected that more concepts would be submitted in this phase than in the proposal phase. Is it therefore acceptable to submit multiple abstracts that may have overlapping contributors? The assumption being that only full proposals with non-overlapping contributors would be submitted (if encouraged based on the abstract).

A8. The constraint that "no technical contributor can be proposed in more than one response" applies only to proposals. However, multiple redundant abstracts are discouraged.

Q9. Section B.1.4 of the PIP states, "No technical contributor can be proposed in more than one response."

1. Does this refer to multiple responses to a single topic, or to multiple responses to the entire BAA?

2. Does this preclude a single person from submitting multiple white papers against different topics?

A9. The constraint that "no technical contributor can be proposed in more than one response" applies only to proposals.   However, multiple redundant abstracts are discouraged.

Q10. We are interested in applying technology from the game and entertainment industry to some of the topic areas listed in the PIP. Is this acceptable?

A10. IXO encourages technical ideas based on progress in non-military areas. However, responses should include an explanation of how these ideas enable significant improvements in warfighting capabilities.

Q11. We have a radar imaging technology that is clearly applicable to military problems. The technology continues to mature but is not a product. We have strategic alliances with partners to assist commercialization. Should we submit a white paper?

A11.   DARPA's mission is to accelerate the development of emerging technologies, or to combine novel sets of technologies into systems that support warfighting capability. Proposals to insert existing technologies into existing systems, or into commercial applications, are unlikely to be found consistent with this mission.

Q12. On page 15, section D.1, General Information, please explain what you mean by: "Abstracts shall contain the following parts: Volume I Cover Sheet of the proposer's planned proposal, a Volume I technical summary, 6 pages maximum, of the proposer's planned proposal; and Volume II cost summary, a one page summary of the proposer's planned proposal."

A12. Submitted abstracts should contain 8 pages, as indicated in Table 1 of section D. Page 1 should identify the organization providing the submission, while pages 2 through 7 should explain the enabling technical idea and envisioned military capability that would result. Page 8 should be a draft version of the cost volume cover sheet, in the format described in Section G.1.

Q13. Is the one page coversheet that is included in the page count the coversheet posted on the BAA submission system? Or, is it a company provided coversheet?

A13. It can be a company-supplied coversheet.

Q14. What are the procedures/deadlines for classified addenda?

A14. Obviously classified material cannot be submitted through the BAA web site. If classified information is crucial to your ideas, describe the nature of that information (data sources, models, performance goals, etc.) and provide a point of contact through which arrangements can be made for classified discussions.

Q15. How precise does the draft cost estimate need to be? We are still working on the SOW and staffing details but need to know whether we must get precise costing from our contracts office or whether a good faith approximation with adjustments in the proposal will be acceptable.

A15. Cost estimates contained in abstracts will not be legally binding, for no contract will be negotiate based on them. Good faith approximations are satisfactory.

Q16. Will the appropriate DARPA staff be able to meet and discuss our ideas between the abstract submission and proposal submission dates?

A16. We are encouraging IXO Program Managers to reserve time to talk with authors of abstracts.

Q17. In F.1.3 Section III - Conflict of Interest, it states that "This section should contain all affirmations relative to DARPA's Organizational Conflict of Interest requirements." Could you please define? I do not see an OCI reference elsewhere in the instructions.

A17.   Please see B.5 of the PIP, which is labeled "Organizational Conflicts of Interest." In this paragraph, it states - "Certain post-employment restrictions on former federal officers and employees may exist, including special Government employees (Section 207 of Title 18, United States Code).   If a prospective proposer believes that such a conflict of interest exists, the situation should be raised to the DARPA Contracting Officer specified in the BAA before time and effort are expended in preparing a proposal. Additionally, proposers and proposed sub-contractors must affirm whether they are providing scientific, engineering, and technical assistance (SETA) or similar support to any DARPA technical offices(s) through an active contract or subcontract. All affirmations must state which office(s) the proposer supports and identify the prime contract number(s). Affirmations shall be furnished at the time of proposal submission (F.1.3). All facts relevent to the existence or potential existence of organizational conflicts of interest (FAR 9.5) must be disclosed. The disclosure shall include a description of the action the proposer has taken or proposes to take to avoid, neutralize, or mitigate such conflict."